

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

H

1

HOUSE BILL 267*

Short Title: 8-Year Drivers License/Internet DL Renewal. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Sutton; B. Allen, Cole, Crawford, Faison, Gillespie, Hackney, Hall, Saunders, Starnes, Tolson, Warren, Wilkins, Womble, Wray, and Yongue.

Referred to: Transportation.

February 17, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EIGHT-YEAR DRIVERS LICENSES AND INTERNET RENEWAL OF DRIVERS LICENSES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-7(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Duration and Renewal of Licenses. – ~~Expiration and Temporary License.~~ – ~~The first drivers license the Division issues to a person expires on the person's fourth or subsequent birthday that occurs after the license is issued and on which the individual's age is evenly divisible by five, unless this subsection sets a different expiration date. A first drivers license may be issued for a shorter duration if the Division determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the applicant holds a visa of limited duration issued by the United States Department of State. The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at least 17years old but is less than 18 years old expires on the person's twentieth birthday. The first drivers license the Division issues to a person who is at least 62 years old expires on the person's birthday in the fifth year after the license is issued, whether or not the person's age on that birthday is evenly divisible by five.~~

Drivers licenses shall be issued and renewed pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

(1) Duration of license for persons under age 18. – A full provisional license issued to a person under the age of 18 shall expire on the person's 21st birthday.

(2) Duration of license for persons at least 18 years of age or older. – A drivers license issued to a person at least 18 years old but less than 38 years old expires eight years after the date of issuance. A drivers

1 license issued to a person at least 38 years old expires five years after
2 the date of issuance.

3 (3) Internet renewal of license authorized for certain persons. – The
4 Division is authorized to renew a drivers license electronically in
5 accordance with this subdivision. The Division may waive the sign
6 tests for applicants renewing electronically. A person who holds a
7 commercial drivers license and is required by federal regulations to be
8 retested shall not renew electronically. A person may renew his or her
9 drivers license electronically for one five-year period at the time of
10 each expiration of a license issued in a drivers license office if all of
11 the following apply:

12 a. The person has no more than two reportable accidents on his or
13 her drivers license record in the previous year.

14 b. The person has no restrictions other than a restriction for
15 corrective lenses on his or her drivers license record in the
16 previous year.

17 c. The person has four or fewer drivers license points.

18 d. The person is at least 25 years old and less than 60 years old.

19 e. The person has obtained an eye examination by a licensed
20 ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist within 12 months prior
21 to the date of electronic renewal, and the results of the
22 examination are submitted to the Division by the
23 ophthalmologist or optometrist to the Division at the time of the
24 application for the electronic renewal.

25 (4) Duration of license for certain visa holders. – A drivers license that
26 was issued by the Division and is renewed by the Division expires ~~five~~
27 ~~years~~ at the end of the period provided by this subsection after the
28 expiration date of the license that is renewed unless the Division
29 determines that a license of shorter duration should be issued when the
30 applicant holds a visa of limited duration from the United States
31 Department of State. A person may apply to the Division to renew a
32 license during the 180 day period before the license expires. The
33 Division may not accept an application for renewal made before the
34 180 day period begins.

35 (5) Renewal by mail. – The Division may renew by mail a drivers license
36 issued by the Division to a person who meets any of the following
37 descriptions:

38 (1)a. Is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United
39 States and is stationed outside this State.

40 (2)b. Is a resident of this State and has been residing outside the State
41 for at least 30 continuous days.

42 When renewing a license by mail, the Division may waive the examination that
43 would otherwise be required for the renewal and may impose any conditions it finds

1 advisable. A license renewed by mail is a temporary license that expires 60 days after
2 the person to whom it is issued returns to this State."

3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2006.